

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LOCKHEED COMMITTEE COMPLETES BILL OF CHARGES ON
ITALIANS -- AMERICANS ARE NEXT

REF: (A) ROME 19707; (B) ROME 19561

1. DURING ITS MEETING TODAY, DECEMBER 7, THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO CHARGE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF LOCKHEED WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL PAYMENTS TO ITALIANS. THIS DECISION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WILL DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICANS, TAKEN DURING THE COMMITTEE'S TRIP TO THE US, CAN BE USED IN PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ITALIAN DEFENDENTS.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THE ITALIAN FIGURES IN THE CASE:

A. EX-MINISTERS GUI AND TANASSI, FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF FANALI AND ANTONIO AND OVIDIO LEFEBVRE: "AGGRAVATED CORRUPTION" FOR HAVING ACCEPTED BRIBES AND "DOUBLY AGGRAVATED FRAUD" FOR HAVING RAISED THE PRICE OF THE HERCULES AIRCRAFT SO AS TO MAKE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PAY FOR THE BRIBES AND "CONSULTANT" FEES.

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B. EX-PM RUMOR: "AGGRAVATED CORRUPTION" FOR HAVING ACCEPTED FROM LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES PROMISES OF KICKBACKS AND PAYOFFS IN RETURN FOR PROMOTING THE SALE OF HERCULES AIRCRAFT.

C. CAMILLO CROCIANI AND HIS ASSISTANTS VITTORIO ANTONELLI AND MARIA FAVA; LUIGI OLIVI, MAX MELCA, BRUNO PALMIOTTI AND RENATO CACCIAPUOTI: "PARTICIPATION IN AGGRAVATED CORRUPTION" FOR HAVING PERFORMED VARIOUS ACTS OF MEDIATION BETWEEN THE LOCKHEED OFFICIALS AND THE ITALIAN OFFICIALS.

D. SERGIO SALIERI: "RETICENCE" (COMMITTEE BELIEVES HE DID NOT TESTIFY TO EXTENT POSSIBLE). SALIERI IS A FORMER ASSISTANT OF CROCIANI.

3. A COMMITTEE SOURCE INDICATED DECEMBER 6 THAT THE COMMITTEE IS STILL WORKING TO DEFINE THE CHARGES PRECISELY. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ON WHETHER THE FINAL CHARGE AGAINST THE ITALIAN PRINCIPALS WILL BE "CORRUZIONE"--ACCEPTING BRIBES--OR "CONCUSSIONE"--EXTORTION.

4. AFTER INTERROGATING THOSE ACCUSED, THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE ITS FINAL REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT, WHICH IN JOINT SESSION WILL EITHER APPROVE OR REJECT THE COMMITTEES FINDINGS. IF THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS ARE ACCEPTED, THE ACCUSED WILL BE TRIED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, WHICH WILL ACT AS AN ORDINARY COURT OF FIRST RESORT.

5. A COMMITTEE SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE COMMITTEE, THE PARLIAMENT AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ARE ALL EMPOWERED TO DECIDE TO TRY THE NON-MINISTERIAL DEFENDENTS SEPARATELY FROM RUMOR, GUI AND TANASSI. THE SAME SOURCE DOUBTED THIS WOULD HAPPEN BECAUSE ALL THE DEFENDENTS ARE LINKED SO CLOSELY IN THIS COMPLICATED CASE.

6. THE DC HAS CONTINUED ITS UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT OF FORMER PM RUMOR (REFTEL B) AND FORMER MINISTER GUI. DC COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST EVERY FORMAL CHARGE WHICH EVEN ALLUDED TO ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF EITHER RUMOR OR GUI. IN A NATIONALLY TELEVISED INTERVIEW, DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI WEIGHED IN WITH A STATEMENT THAT HE WAS "ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THE BASIS OF "LONG AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS" OF THE INNOCENCE OF BOTH RUMOR AND GUI. COMMENT: THE DC'S DEFENSE OF RUMOR AND GUI GOES BEYOND PRO FORMA REQUIREMENTS. DC MOTIVES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE OF ZACCAGNINI, ARE HARD TO DEFINE AT THIS POINT. END COMMENT. BEAUDRY

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